

Holland Peak Fire Update

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006 9:00 am

Fire Location: 5 miles east of Condon, Montana

Information Officers: Loretta Benavidez, Ema Braunberger

Phone No. 406-754-3025

Estimated Size: 670 Acres, 15% Contained

Jurisdiction: USFS Flathead National Forest

Incident Commander: Gary Benavidez

Structures Threatened: No structures are threatened at this time

Fire First Reported: 8/21

Cause of Fire: Lightning

Resources: 60 personnel - No injuries reported to date

Strong inversions continue to cause increased smoke in the valley during morning hours. Over the last few days, the inversion has lifted by mid-afternoon. Firefighters engaged the fire early this morning at the pre-identified line of defense along Trail 192, between South Fork Creek and Buck Creek. Suppression efforts are being successful at this time, where the fire has reached the line. A secondary line is being constructed with heavy equipment along Forest Road 905.

Helicopter operations were effective yesterday as water drops moderated the fire's spread to the north, south, and east. The type 1 heavy helicopter remained committed to the Holland Peak fire throughout the day. A second helicopter, rated as a medium ship, worked in tandem with the heavy. Together, the aerial resources were very effective in checking the fire's spread on the flanks.

High daytime temperatures coupled with low relative humidity, especially at higher elevations, have factored into the increased fire behavior over the last two days. Although occasional fire runs uphill have been observed, the overall fire effects being observed have been favorable. Field observers report that the fire has 6 inch to 2 foot flame lengths and is consuming heavy dead and down material, with little scorching of live trees.

The Interagency cooperation has been exceptional and has resulted in a culmination of successes throughout the course of each operational period. Firefighters would like to thank the public and residents in the Swan Valley area for their support and patience as firefighter and public safety remain the priority objective of the incident.

There will be increased fire traffic on Falls Creek and Rumble Creek Roads – please drive safely.

CLOSURES: Foothill Trail 192, Rumble Creek and Buck Creek areas are closed to hunting and public entry due to Holland Peak Fire operations. This includes the Rumble Lakes area. ***Road 560 is open to local residents only.***

OBJECTIVES: Provide for firefighter and public safety. Keep threat to structures minimal. Provide contingency containment lines between communities and fire (activate if needed); Keep local communities and residents informed.

Fire Information Website: www.inciweb.org

Flathead National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead/fire/fire_2006

Northern Rockies Incident Information: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/information/information.htm>

Stage I Fire Restrictions are in Effect
Campfires allowed ONLY in developed Campgrounds